

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE NAME OF

GARY K. MICHELSON, M.D.

for an

ORTHOPEDIC IMPLANT SURFACE CONFIGURATION
WITH A PROJECTION HAVING A BACK CUT

Prepared by:
MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP
1557 Lake O'Pines Street, NE
Hartville, Ohio 44632
Telephone: (330) 877-0700
Facsimile: 330-877-2030

Attorney Docket No. 101.0094-01000

Express Mail No.: ET692326271US

ORTHOPEDIC IMPLANT SURFACE CONFIGURATION WITH A PROJECTION HAVING A BACK CUT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Related Application

This application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/572,518, filed May 17, 2000; which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 09/457,228, filed December 8, 1999; all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Description of the Related Art

The present invention relates to orthopedic implants for placement at least in part into bone, or for placement at least in part between adjacent bones or bone portions of a human skeleton. The orthopedic implants of the present invention have a specialized surface for engaging bone.

Vital to the functioning of such orthopedic implants is their ability to remain properly located within bone after installation. In U.S. Patent Nos. 5,593,409 and 5,609,635, Michelson described the use of surface roughenings, such as knurling or ratcheting on the opposed upper and lower vertebral body engaging surfaces of interbody spinal fusion implants. Knurling has been particularly beneficial for increasing the grip of the implant surface to the bone of the adjacent vertebral bodies in a rather uniform manner without a directional bias. Orthopedic implants inserted at least in part into bone, have a propensity to move in a particular direction, which is opposite to their path of insertion, because this is the path of least resistance. Such propensity to move is further increased when the implant has an overall configuration that is tapered along at least a portion of its length such that the bone engaging surfaces of the implant are in angular relationship to each other and are spaced further apart at the implant's trailing end than at the implant's leading end. In such circumstances where it is desirable then to gain stability in resistance to a particular direction of movement of the orthopedic implant, the use of a plurality of forward facing ratcheting on the implant's bone

engaging surfaces has been preferable to the previously described knurling for that purpose.

The term "ratcheting" as used herein is defined as a plurality of angular teeth or ridges or protrusions projecting from the surface of an implant to resist motion of the implant at least in one direction. The phrase "forward facing ratchettings" as used herein is defined as a ratcheting having at least one forward facing facet having a length greater than a rearward facing facet and an angle from the implant surface from which the forward facing facet arises that is less steep than the angle of the rearward facet. On an implant surface, forward facing ratchettings facilitate the insertion of the implant in one direction and after insertion, resisting movement of the implant in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. An example of forward facing ratchettings of the prior art is shown in partial fragmentary view in Figs. 24A and 24B, generally referred to by the reference numeral 50.

Knurled surfaces of the related art provide some stability in all directions, but lack the ability to resist a particular direction of motion preferentially. The above-described ratcheted surface best resists motion in a particular direction. There exists a need for an improved orthopedic implant surface configuration, wherein the bone engaging surfaces of the implant are configured to be resistant to implant movement in all directions, and preferentially in particularly one direction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to orthopedic implants having a specialized surface configuration on at least a portion of the exterior surfaces adapted for engaging bone, including adjacent bones and bone portions, into which the implant is to be implanted. Such an implant surface configuration has utility with a wide variety of shapes of orthopedic implants where enhanced skeletal fixation is desired. Such an implant surface configuration can provide for enhanced stability, increased surface area, and a surface for the delivery of fusion promoting substances other than bone. In a preferred embodiment, the implant surface can provide for resisting motion in all directions, and particularly in at least one direction, such as counter to the direction of insertion of the implant.

While various embodiments of the present invention are presented by way of example only and not limitation, common to each of them is that the surface configuration incorporates a plurality of spatially integrated surface projections having at least one forward facing facet directed at least in part toward the leading end of the implant and at least one rearward portion directed at least in part toward the opposite trailing end of the implant. By way of example and not limitation, the rearward portion may be a facet, a line, or an edge of the rearward aspect of the surface projection formed where two facets come together. Each of the forward and rearward facets have a length and a slope. The length of the forward facet is longer than the length of the rearward facet. The slope of the rearward facet is steeper than the slope of the forward facet. In various embodiments, the surface projections also have opposed side facets directed generally toward the sides of the implant. The side facets are located between the forward facet and rearward facet and may converge toward each other in a direction away from the base of the surface projections. The surface comprises multifaceted ratcheted projections that are organized in geometrically disposed fields or arrays which are at a minimum located on at least a portion of the bone engaging surfaces of the implant. From the teachings disclosed herein, it is appreciated that the surface projections can be geometrically arranged in a pattern wherein at least a portion of the projection is aligned along a longitudinal, horizontal, diagonal, or curved line. The bone engaging surfaces of the implant can be at least in part arcuate or planar and can converge along a portion or all of the length of the implant.

In various preferred embodiments of the present invention, the rearward facets of the surface projections can be perpendicular or at angles greater or less than 90 degrees to exterior surface of the implant from which the projections arise. The opposed side facets of the surface projections can have at least a first portion in a plane at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the implant. The opposed side facets can intersect each other, and can converge to form a peak at the top of each of the surface projections. The peaks can be aligned along lines that are perpendicular, parallel, or diagonal to the longitudinal axis of the implant. The surface projections can be cleaved such as by longitudinal and/or horizontal cuts to increase the number of exposed sides of the projections and thus increase the available surface area to contact and engage

the bone adjacent the implant and increase the number of recessed areas to contain material such as fusion promoting substances for example. Alternatively, the peaks of each surface projection can be cleaved, truncated, or flattened at least in part.

The surface projections can include a left forward side facet and a right forward side facet directed toward the leading end and sides, respectively, of the implant. Similarly, the surface projections can include a left rearward side facet and a right rearward side facet directed toward the trailing end and sides, respectively, of the implant. The side facets of adjacent surface projections can be spaced apart to define a groove therebetween. A plurality of adjacent surface projections can be spaced apart to form a plurality of grooves that can be parallel or at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the implant, wherein the angle can be less than 90 degrees. The grooves can have a horizontal cross section that is a V-shape, U-shape, or a box-like shape, for example.

Sequential projections can be positioned on an implant wherein each surface projection has forward facing facets facing the same direction, such that consecutive projections are oriented forward facing facet to rearward facing facet. The lower most portion of the slope of the forward facing facet of a first surface projection in a sequence can be coincident with the rearward facet of the next surface projection in the sequence. Alternatively, the forward facet of a first surface projection and the rearward facet of the next surface projection in a sequence can be spaced apart and the space can be at least in part flat, curved, or any other surface contour suitable for the intended use. The surface projections can be oriented relative to one another to form fields or arrays that further can be geometrically disposed relative to one another, preferably in a pattern wherein at least a portion of the projection is aligned along a longitudinal, horizontal, diagonal, or curved line.

The surface configuration of the present invention can be formed by casting, machining, or any other techniques known to one of ordinary skill in the art. The present surface configuration may readily be machined by milling the implant surface from side to side, across the bone engaging surfaces, to form ratchetings generally disposed perpendicular to the long axis of the implant and generally formed facing to the insertion end of the implant. The ratchetings may be cross machined with an angled cutting face to form grooves passing through the ratchetings. For example, a milling

machine having a cutting tool, with a V-shaped profile, can be run through the plurality of ratchetings parallel to the longitudinal axis of the implant to form the above-described surface. In a preferred embodiment, the V-shaped cutting tool of the milling machine has opposed cutting faces with an angle of approximately 90 degrees to each other, which faces are each at a 45-degree angle to the plane of the surfaces being machined. Without departing from the scope of the present invention, the angle of the cutting faces can be more or less than 90 degrees, and the angle of the cutting face to the surface to be cut can be more or less than 45 degrees. It is appreciated that rather than the cutting element being run parallel to the longitudinal axis of the implant, the cutting element could be run at some other angle. By way of example only and not limitation, this angle could be at 45 degrees to the longitudinal axis of the implant and to the projections. Each surface projection could then be formed by a cutter crossing in two passes to form two grooves at a 90 degree angle to each other.

The surface configuration of the implant of the present invention may be incorporated into various types of orthopedic implants. Such orthopedic implants may be for securing a prosthetic device implanted into bone, may be for the purpose of healing bone portions or for achieving fusion of bones, or for stabilizing a device to space apart and allow motion between the adjacent bones or bone portions. Such orthopedic implants may comprise any artificial or naturally occurring material appropriate for the intended purpose. Such materials would include, but are not limited to, implant quality metals, including, but not limited to, titanium and its alloys, surgical grade plastics and plastic composites which may or may not be bioresorbable, ceramics, and cortical bone. Some examples of interbody orthopedic implants that may benefit from the present teaching, include but are not limited to any artificial joint component having an intramedullary stem, such as but not limited to, hip replacements, shoulder replacements, knee replacements, and finger joints; and medical prosthetic implants for replacing a lost portion of a long bone.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a top plan view of an orthopedic implant having a surface configuration in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the orthopedic implant of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a side elevation view of the interbody orthopedic implant of Fig. 1 installed in an implantation site formed in bone shown in partial cross-section.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of an implant surface of one embodiment of the present invention from a view taken along area 4 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the implant surface of FIG. 4 from a view taken along area 5 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary end elevation view of FIG. 4.

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary perspective view of the implant surface of FIG. 4.

FIG. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of a second embodiment of the implant surface of the present invention from a view taken along area 8 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the implant surface of FIG. 8 from a view taken along area 9 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 10 is a fragmentary end view of the implant surface of FIG. 8.

FIG. 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of the implant surface of FIG. 8.

FIG. 12 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of a third embodiment of the implant surface of the present invention from a view taken along area 12 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 13 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the implant surface of FIG. 12 from a view taken along area 13 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 14 is a fragmentary end view of FIG. 12.

FIG. 15 is a fragmentary perspective view of the implant surface of FIG. 12.

FIG. 16 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of a fourth embodiment of the implant surface of the present invention from a view taken along area 16 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 17 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the implant surface of FIG. 16 from a view taken along area 17 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 18 is a fragmentary end view of FIG. 16.

FIG. 19A is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the implant surface of FIG. 16.

FIG. 19B is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of a variation on the second and third surface projections of the fourth embodiment of the implant surface of the present invention with a cleave therethrough.

FIG. 20 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of a fifth embodiment of the implant surface of the present invention from a view taken along area 20 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 21 is a fragmentary side elevation view of the implant surface of FIG. 20 from a view taken along line 21 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 22 is a fragmentary end view of FIG. 20.

FIG. 23 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the implant surface of FIG. 20.

FIGS. 24A and 24B are perspective and side elevation views, respectively, of a prior art implant surface having forward facing ratchetings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

As shown in Figs. 1-7, an orthopedic implant 100, in the form of a hip prosthesis in this example, has a leading end 102, a trailing end 104, and an exterior surface 106. Implant 100 may converge from trailing end 104 to leading end 102 along a longitudinal axis L of implant 100 as shown, or may diverge, be parallel, or any combination thereof. Exterior surface 106 is configured to be placed against and in contact or engagement with the bone B, including adjacent bones or bone portions, of a human skeleton.. It is appreciated that the surface configuration of the present invention is not limited to a hip prosthesis and may be incorporated in other types of orthopedic implants including such implants placed between adjacent bones or adjacent bone portions of the human skeleton. Exterior surface 106 may include large and/or small openings 114, 116 to permit bone growth into and through implant 100. Exterior surface 106 of implant 100 can be generally planar, or can be arcuate as shown in the Figures, or any other configuration suitable for the desired use.

As shown in detail in Figs. 4-7, at least a portion of exterior surface 106 of implant 100 has a surface configuration generally referred to by the numeral 120. In accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, surface configuration 120 includes surface projections 122 configured to facilitate insertion of implant 100 into an implantation site while resisting expulsion of implant 100 in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. Each of surface projections 122 has an angled forward facet 124 directed at least in part toward leading end 102 of implant 100 and a rearward facet 126

directed at least in part toward trailing end 104 of implant 100. Forward facet 124 has a length greater than the length of rearward facet 126. Rearward facet 126 has a slope that is steeper than the slope of forward facet 124. In this embodiment, the base of rearward facet 126 forms an angle of approximately 90 degrees with respect to exterior surface 106 of implant 100. It is appreciated that the angle of the base of rearward facet 126 with respect to exterior surface 106 of implant 100 may be perpendicular to, greater than perpendicular to, or less than perpendicular to the base of the surface where the facet arises. Forward facet 124 forms an angle in the range of approximately 10 to 60 degrees, with 25-45 degrees being preferred, with respect to exterior surface 106. Each one of surface projections 122 also has a left side facet 132 and a right side facet 134 directed toward the sides of implant 100.

In this embodiment of surface configuration 120, a plurality of surface projections 122 are spaced apart laterally (side to side) by longitudinal grooves 130 formed along the longitudinal axis L of implant 100. In one embodiment, longitudinal grooves 130 have a V-shaped horizontal cross-section. The lower most portions of left and right side facets 132, 134 of consecutive side-by-side projections 122 can be coincident with each other or may be spaced apart, any space therebetween can be at least in part flat, curved, sloped or otherwise configured. Each surface projection 122 has left and right side facets 132, 134 that converge to form a high point or peak 136 at the top of each surface projection 122. Each peak 136 can be aligned along lines that are perpendicular, parallel, and/or diagonally oriented to longitudinal axis L of implant 100. The left and right side facets 132, 134 resist side-to-side motion of implant 100 after it is inserted into the implantation space. Peaks 136 engage the bone B adjacent to implant 100 in the implantation site. It is appreciated that in a variation of the present invention, the peaks may be modified such as to be truncated or cut off to have a broader rather than sharper upper most surface. Moreover, the peaks can be cleaved in one or more directions so as to increase the surface area useful for engaging bone . The relieved areas of the cleaved projections are useful for containing and carrying fusion promoting substances other than bone such as bone morphogenetic proteins and genetic materials coding for the production of bone, or bone itself which could by way of example be in the form of a paste. It is further appreciated that for all the various

embodiments of the surface configuration of the present invention, longitudinal grooves 130 can have horizontal cross-sections in a variety of configurations such as, without limitation, square-shaped or U-shaped configurations.

Sequential projections can be positioned on an implant wherein each surface projection has forward facing facets facing the same direction such that consecutive projections are oriented forward facing facet to rearward facing facet. The lower most portion of the slope of the forward facing facet of a first surface projection in a sequence can be coincident with the rearward facet of the next surface projection in the sequence. Alternatively, the forward facet of a first surface projection and the rearward facet of the next surface projection in a sequence can be spaced apart and the space can be at least in part flat, curved, or any other surface configuration suitable for the intended use. The surface projections can be oriented relative to one another to form an array and are preferably geometrically disposed relative to one another in a pattern wherein at least a portion of the projection is aligned along a longitudinal, horizontal, diagonal, or curved line. Further, it is appreciated that the surface of the present invention can be useful with orthopedic implants of various configurations, including configurations wherein at least one of leading end, trailing end, and sides of the orthopedic implant is curved. By way of example and not limitation, the leading end, trailing end, and sides of the orthopedic implant can form an oval, an oblong, a circle, or other geometric shape.

As shown in Figs. 8-11, a second embodiment of the surface configuration of the present invention is generally referred to by the numeral 220. Surface configuration 220 includes surface projections 222 to facilitate insertion of implant 100 into an implantation site while resisting expulsion of implant 100 in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. Each of surface projections 222 has an angled forward facet 224 directed at least in part toward leading end 202 of implant 100 and a rearward facet 226 directed at least in part toward trailing end 204 of implant 100. Forward facet 224 has a length greater than the length of rearward facet 226. Rearward facet 226 has a slope that is steeper than the slope of forward facet 224. In this embodiment, the base of rearward facet 226 forms an angle of approximately 45 degrees with respect to exterior surface 206 of implant 100. Each one of surface projections 222 has a left side facet 232 and a

right side facet 234 directed toward the sides of implant 100, and forward facet 224 and rearward facet 226.

In this embodiment of surface configuration 220, longitudinal grooves 230 have a V-shaped horizontal cross-section. The lower most portions of left and right side facets 232, 234 of consecutive side-by-side projections 222 can be coincident with each other or may be spaced apart, any space therebetween can be at least in part flat, curved, sloped or otherwise configured. Each surface projection has left and right side facets 232, 234 that converge to form a high point or peak 236 at the top of each surface projections 222. Each peak 236 can be aligned along lines that are perpendicular, parallel, and/or diagonally oriented to the longitudinal axis L of implant 100. The left and right side facets 232, 234 resist side-to-side motion of implant 100 after it is inserted into the implantation space. Peaks 236 engage bone B adjacent to implant 100 in the implantation site.

As shown in Figs. 12-15, a third embodiment of the surface configuration of the present invention is generally referred to by the numeral 320 is shown. Surface configuration 320 includes surface projections 322 to facilitate insertion of implant 100 into an implantation site while resisting expulsion of implant 100 in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. Each of surface projections 322 has an angled forward facet 324 directed at least in part toward leading end 302 of implant 100 and a rearward facet 326 directed at least in part toward trailing end 304 of implant 100. Forward facet 324 has a length greater than the length of rearward facet 326. Rearward facet 326 has a slope that is steeper than the slope of forward facet 324. In this embodiment, the base of rearward facet 326 is “back cut” to form an angle greater than 90 degrees with respect to exterior surface 306 of implant 100. The configuration of rearward facet 326 further enhances resistance of motion of the implant in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. It is appreciated that the angle of the base of rearward facet 326 with respect to exterior surface 306 of implant 100 can be any other angle suitable for the intended purpose of the present invention. Each one of surface projections 322 has a left side facet 332 and a right side facet 334 directed toward the sides of implant 100, and a forward facet 324 and a rearward facet 326.

In this embodiment of surface configuration 320, longitudinal grooves 330 have a V-shaped horizontal cross section. The lower most portions of left and right side facets 332, 334 of consecutive side-by-side projections 322 can be coincident with each other or may be spaced apart, and any space therebetween can be at least in part flat, curved, sloped or otherwise configured. Each surface projection 322 has left and right side facets 332, 334 that converge to form a high point or peak 336 at the top of each surface projection 322. Each peak 336 can be aligned along lines that are perpendicular, parallel, and/or diagonally oriented to the longitudinal axis L of implant 100. The left and right side facets 332, 334 resist side-to-side motion of implant 100 after it is inserted into the implantation space. Peaks 336 engage bone B adjacent to implant 100 in the implantation site.

As shown in Figs. 16-19B, a fourth embodiment of the surface configuration of the present invention is generally referred to by the numeral 420. Surface configuration 420 includes surface projections 422 configured to facilitate insertion of implant 100 in the direction of insertion into an implantation site while resisting expulsion of implant 100 in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. Each of surface projections 422 has an angled forward facet 424 directed toward leading end 402 of implant 100 and a rearward portion 426 directed toward trailing end 404 of implant 100. Forward facet 424 has a length greater than the length of rearward portion 426. Rearward portion 426 has a slope that is steeper than the slope of forward facet 424. In this embodiment, the base of rearward portion 426 forms an angle of approximately 90 degrees with respect to exterior surface 406 of implant 100. Rearward portion 426 can be a portion of surface projection 422, such as a facet, an edge, or a line for example. Each one of surface projections 422 has a left side forward facet 450, a right side forward facet 452, a left side rearward facet 454, and a right side rearward facet 456 directed toward the front and sides, and directed toward the rear and sides of implant 100, respectively, and forward facet 424 and rearward portion 426.

Surface configuration 420 can further include a second plurality of surface projections 460 having at least a left forward side facet 462 and a right forward side facet 464 directed at least in part toward leading end 402 and sides of implant 100, respectively, and at least one rearward facet 466 directed at least in part toward trailing

end 400. Left and right forward side facets 462, 464 have at least a first portion in a plane at an angle to the longitudinal axis of implant 100. Second surface projections 460 can be interspersed with surface projections 422.

Surface configuration 420 can further comprise a third plurality of surface projections 470 having at least a left rearward side facet 472 and a right rearward side facet 474 directed at least in part toward trailing end 404 and sides of implant 100, respectively, and at least one forward facet 476 directed at least in part toward leading end 402. Left and right rearward side facets 472, 474 have at least a first portion in a plane at an angle to the longitudinal axis of implant 100. Third surface projections 470 can be interspersed with surface projections 422 and/or second surface projections 460. Surface projections 422 may have a length approximating the combined length of second surface projections 460 and third surface projections 470.

In this embodiment, surface configuration 420 has angled grooves 440a-k that form a plurality of surface projections 422. In this example, angled grooves 440a-k are formed at an angle that is approximately 45 degrees to longitudinal axis L of orthopedic implant 100 and in this example, angled grooves 440a-k are approximately 90 degrees to one another. The angled grooves 440a-k can be formed, if machined, by first passing a cutting element at a 45 degree angle to the longitudinal axis L of implant 100 and then passing the cutting element at a 90 degree angle to the path of the first pass of the cutting element, or otherwise formed by casting, molding, and other methods for forming a surface configuration. It is appreciated that angled grooves 400a-k can be formed at various angles to the longitudinal axis L of implant 100 and to each other. For example, such angles can be less than 180 degrees.

In this embodiment of surface configuration 420, angled grooves 440a-k have a V-shaped horizontal cross-section. Each surface projection 422 has left and right side facets 432 and 434 that are convergent and form a high point or peak 436 at the top of each surface projections 422. Each peak 436 can be aligned along lines that are horizontally, longitudinally, and/or diagonally oriented along implant 100. The left and right side forward and rearward facets 450, 452, 454, 456 function to prevent side-to-side motion of implant 100 after it is inserted into the implantation space. Peaks 436

may also function like teeth to engage bone B adjacent to the implant in the implantation site.

Fig.19B shows a variation of second and third surface projections 460', 470' that can be cleaved in one or more directions to increase the number of exposed sides of each projection and thus increase the surface area of the implant bone engaging surface available to contact bone B. A preferred embodiment of this variation of the second and third surface projections 460', 470' are cleaved by a longitudinal groove.

As shown in Figs. 20-23, a fifth embodiment of the surface configuration of the present invention is generally referred to by the numeral 520. Surface configuration 520 includes surface projections 522 to facilitate insertion of implant 100 into an implantation site while resisting expulsion of implant 100 in a direction opposite to the direction of insertion. Surface projections 522 can be cleaved in one or more directions to increase the number of exposed sides of each projection and thus increase the surface area of the implant bone engaging surface available to contact bone B. For example, the surface projections can be cleaved by a longitudinal cut 540 generally parallel to the longitudinal axis L of implant 100 to form a surface projection having nine exposed sides. The surface projections may further be cleaved by a horizontal cut 542 generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis L of implant 100 to form a surface projection having eighteen exposed sides. The cuts can penetrate the surface projection at a depth substantially equal to that of the height of the surface projections as measured from the upper or lower surfaces of the implant. The cuts can be oriented along at least one of the longitudinal axis of the implant, an axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said implant, and an axis at an angle between the longitudinal axis and the axis perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the implant. It is appreciated that cuts 540 and 542 may be formed as part of the molding process for forming the surface projections.

When cleaved by longitudinal cut 540 and horizontal cut 542, each of surface projections 522 has angled forward facet 524a, 524b directed at least in part toward leading end 502 of implant 100 and rearward facets 526a, 526b directed at least in part toward trailing end 504 of implant 100. Forward facet 524 has a length greater than the length of rearward facet 526. Rearward facets 526a, 526b have a slope that is steeper than the slope of forward facets 524a, 524b. The cleaved portion of surface projection

522 can be spaced apart by a predetermined distance and the space can be at least in part flat, curved, or any other surface configuration suitable for the intended use. In this embodiment, the base of rearward facets 526a, 526b forms an angle of approximately 45 degrees with respect to exterior surface 506 of implant 100. Each one of surface projections 522 has left side facets 532a, 532b and right side facets 534a, 534b directed toward the sides of implant 100, and forward facets 524a, 524b and rearward facet 526a, 526b. In this embodiment of surface configuration 520, longitudinal grooves 530 have a V-shaped horizontal cross-section and each surface projection 522 has left and right side facets 532a, 532b, 534a, 534b that converge toward one another. The left and right side facets 532a, 532b, 534a, 534b resist side-to-side motion of implant 100 after it is inserted into the implantation space.

The surface configuration of the present invention can be formed by molding, machining or otherwise. A preferred surface configuration of the present invention may readily be machined by milling from side to side, across the bone engaging surfaces, surface projections. A milling machine with a cutting tool having an angled cutting face such as a V-shaped profile can then be run through the plurality of surface projections parallel to the longitudinal axis of the implant to form the above-described surface. In a preferred embodiment, the V-shaped cutting tool of the milling machine has faces with an angle of approximately 90 degrees, which faces are at a 45-degree angle to the plane of the surfaces being so machined. Without departing from the present invention, the angle of the cutting faces can be more or less than 90 degrees, the angle of the cutting face to the surface to be cut can be more or less than 45 degrees, and rather than running the cutter element parallel to the longitudinal axis of the implant, the cutting element may be run at an angle. By way of example only and not limitation, this angle may be at 45 degrees to the longitudinal axis of the implant and each surface projection can be formed by two grooves crossing the projections at a 90 degree angle to each other.

The orthopedic implants of the present invention are made of artificial or naturally occurring materials suitable for implantation in the human body. The implants can comprise bone including, but not limited to, cortical bone, materials other than bone, such as metals including, but not limited to, titanium and its alloys or ASTM material,

surgical grade plastics, plastic composites, ceramics, or other materials suitable for use as an orthopedic implant. The implants of the present invention can further comprise or be combined with bone growth promoting materials, including but not limited to, bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, and genes coding for the production of bone. The implants can be treated with a bone growth promoting substance, can be a source of osteogenesis, or can be bioabsorbable at least in part. The implants of the present invention can be formed of a porous material.

The orthopedic implants of the present invention can be for the purpose of achieving fusion. The exterior surface of the fusion implants can include at least one opening to permit for the growth of bone from bone or bone portion to adjacent bone or bone portion through the implant. The implant can have an internal chamber and may also have an access opening for accessing the internal chamber, in which case the implant can further have a cover such as a cap to close the access opening at least in part. Openings in the exterior surface of the implant can communicate with the internal chamber to permit further growth of bone through the implant. The internal chamber can contain bone growth promoting materials, including but not limited to, bone, bone morphogenetic proteins, hydroxyapatite, and genes coding for the production of bone. The implants of the present invention can be formed of a material that intrinsically participates in the growth of bone from one of the adjacent bones or bone portions to the other of the adjacent bones or bone portions.

While various embodiments of the present invention are presented by way of example only and not limitation, common to each of them, is that the configuration of the surface is based on a plurality of surface projections disposed in arrays, each surface projection comprising at least one leading facet and at least one opposing trailing facet, in which the leading facet has a length greater than the trailing facet and the trailing facet has a steeper slope than the slope of the leading facet. The surface configuration is located on at least a portion of exterior bone engaging surface of the orthopedic implant.

While the implant shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3 is a hip prosthesis , it is appreciated that the surface configuration of the present invention is applicable to any orthopedic implants having an exterior surface incorporating the present inventive teachings for

engaging bone including but not limited to, any artificial joint component having an intramedullary stem, such as but not limited to, hip replacements, shoulder replacements, knee replacements, and finger joints; and medical prosthetic implants for replacing a lost portion of a long bone.

It is believed that the operation and construction of the present invention will be apparent from the foregoing description and, while the invention shown and described herein has been characterized as particular embodiments, changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.